GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
HOMELESS CITIZENS
Singh Shri Ratan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the homeless citizens are not being issued voter identity card;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the procedure to issue voter identity cards to homeless citizens including forest dwellers and nomads?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (b): The Election Commission of India has informed that homeless citizens are being issued photo identity card. Electors Photo Identity Cards is a consequential document which is issued to all electors after their enrolment in the electoral roll. As per article 326 of the Constitution, every citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is not otherwise disqualified under the Constitution or any law made by the appropriate legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as an elector in the electoral roll. The Election Commission has further informed that on the same analogy homeless citizens including forest dwellers and nomads are being enrolled in the electoral roll only when they settle down at some particular place and satisfy the condition of ordinary resident as laid down in the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

(c) The Election Commission has issued detailed instructions from time to time to all the Chief Electoral Officers of all the States and Union Territories to enrol homeless citizens, forest dwellers and nomads.